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Public Hearing Testimony February 24, 2009

Transportation Committee written testimony John A. Kissel, State Senator 7th District

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RE: HB 5650 *An Act Authorizing The Issuance of Bonds of the State For the Purchase by the Enfield Police Department of a Vehicle and Equipment Necessary for Participation in the Federal Motor Carrier Enforcement Program*

Good afternoon Senator DeFronzo, Rep. Guerrera and honorable members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my support of **HB 5650 An Act Authorizing The Issuance of Bonds of the State For the Purchase by the Enfield Police Department of a Vehicle and Equipment Necessary for Participation in the Federal Motor Carrier Enforcement Program**, of which I am a co-sponsor.

The Enfield Police Department contacted me last year with a request to receive bond money from the state to purchase equipment necessary to participate in the Federal Motor Carrier Enforcement Program. While this request does carry a fiscal note of nearly \$72,000 at a time when our state budget is facing a severe deficit, the money will be re-cooped by the state in the form of fines. In conversations with members of the Enfield Police Department, I have been informed that it is not uncommon for overweight vehicles fines and other safety violation fines to be nearly six thousand dollars, which then goes directly to the state. At that rate, only 12-13 tickets would have to be issued for the state to be paid back in full. I have been working hard along side my colleagues to tackle our state's budget problems and I would not voice such strong support of a bill that carried a fiscal note unless I was sure that the state would not ultimately lose money.

The Enfield Police Department has served our community faithfully for many years and I am confident that should the committee look favorably on their request, they will continue their standard of excellence as part of the Federal Motor Carrier Enforcement Program. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before you on this issue and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.